

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) Packaging for a bandage having a patient-contacting surface with a peripheral edge, the ~~the~~ [[and a]] patient-contacting surface, including ~~including~~ [[with]] an absorbent layer completely surrounded by ~~completely surrounded by~~ [[and]] an adhesive that extends to the peripheral edge in all directions, comprising:

first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage and peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained between the removable sheets until use; and

wherein one of sheets is in direct contact with the entire adhesive on the patient-contacting surface until that sheet is removed.

12. (Previously Presented) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

13. (Withdrawn) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of foil.

14. (Withdrawn) The packaging of claim 11, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of plastic.

15. (Previously Presented) The packaging of claim 11, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

16. (Currently Amended) A bandage construction, consisting of ~~comprising~~:

a bandage portion having a patient-contacting front surface with an adhesive, a back surface and a peripheral edge; and

a packaging portion including first and second removable sheets, both extending beyond the peripheral edge of the bandage, and wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined so that the bandage is contained between the removable sheets until use.

17. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of paper.

18. (Withdrawn) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of foil.

19. (Withdrawn) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are made of plastic.

20. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein one of the first and second removable sheets includes a dog-ear tab to assist in removal.

21. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the first and second removable sheets are peripherally joined with an adhesive.

22. (Currently Amended) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein the bandage portion comprises ~~further includes~~:

a flexible backing layer; and

an absorbent layer bonded to the flexible backing layer.

23. (Currently Amended) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the flexible backing layer extends beyond the absorbent layer ~~and includes a patient-contacting adhesive~~.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the flexible backing layer is fluid-impermeable.

26. (Previously Presented) The bandage construction of claim 22, wherein the adhesive is disposed on flexible backing layer and surrounds the absorbent layer to form an island-type bandage portion.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a bandage, comprising the steps of:
providing the bandage construction of claim 16;
removing one of the first and second removable sheets to expose the entire patient-contacting front surface;
applying the bandage portion to a recipient using the adhesive; and
removing the other removable sheet from the back surface of the bandage portion.

28. (Currently Amended) A bandage construction, consisting essentially of:
a bandage portion with a patient-contacting surface including an absorbent layer and an adhesive; and
two removable packaging sheets, one on either side of the bandage portion, such that one of the sheets acts as a release layer to expose the adhesive for use.

29. (Withdrawn) A shaped composite bandage, comprising:
a patient-contacting absorbent layer;
a flexible layer attached to, and extending beyond, the absorbent layer, the flexible layer including an adhesive and a pair of opposed longitudinal edges terminating in two ends;
wherein the edges are tapered toward either or both ends of the flexible layer.

30. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein the flexible layer is a flexible foam layer.

31. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein the adhesive is applied to the entire area of the flexible layer that extends beyond absorbent layer.

32. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein the flexible layer extends beyond the absorbent layer in all dimensions.

33. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein the smallest dimension of the flexible layer is at least 2 inches.

34. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 30, wherein the smallest dimension of the flexible layer is at least 2 inches.

35. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein:
wherein flexible layer tapers toward both ends such that the central portion of the flexible layer is wider than the width of the flexible layer at either end.

36. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 35, wherein the flexible layer is a flexible foam layer.

37. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein:
wherein flexible layer tapers toward both ends such that the central portion of the flexible layer is wider than the width of the flexible layer at either end to create a generally hexagonal shape.

38. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 37, wherein at least four of the sides of the hexagon are substantially equal in length.

39. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 38, wherein the flexible layer is a flexible foam layer.

40. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, wherein:

wherein flexible layer tapers toward both ends such that the central portion of the flexible layer is narrower than the width of the flexible layer at either end to create a bowtie shape.

41. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 40, wherein the flexible layer is a flexible foam layer.

42. (Withdrawn) The bandage of claim 29, further including a pocket to permit inversion after use.

43. (New) The bandage construction of claim 16, wherein:
the bandage portion has two ends and a mid section; and
wherein bandage portion is tapered such that the mid section is wider than one or both of the ends.

44. (New) The bandage construction of claim 28, wherein:
the bandage portion has two ends and a mid section; and
wherein bandage portion is tapered such that the mid section is wider than one or both of the ends.